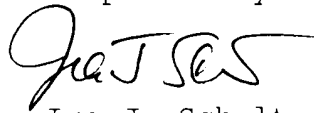


REMARKS

The claims have been amended to delete all multiple dependencies and to place the claims in generally better form for U.S. practice.

Submitted herewith is a copy of the Search Report of the corresponding International application, together with copies of the references cited therein which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

Respectfully submitted,



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## APPENDIX

Page 26, line 1, [CLAIMS] What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) A composition of matter comprising compressed fibrous plant materials, [wherein] at least 20% [of the total] by weight of the composition of matter [is] comprising compressed fibrous plant materials having a length of at least about 3 cm.

4. (Amended) A composition of matter according to claim 1, [2 or 3] having a density between about 0.4 [to] and 0.6 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

5. (Amended) A composition of matter according to claim 1 having a density between about 0.45 [to] and 0.55 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, wherein [and] the compressed fibrous plant materials [having] have a length of at least about 3 cm and comprise between about 55% to 80% [of the total] by weight of the composition of matter.

6. (Amended) A blended feed adapted for feeding to ruminant livestock comprising the composition of matter of claim 1, [2, 3, 4 or 5] and other feed materials, wherein at least 15% [of the total] by weight of the blended feed [is the] comprises said composition of matter [of claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5].

7. (Amended) An apparatus adapted to compress fibrous plant materials to form compressed solid feed, comprising:

at least one die comprising a plurality of raw material receiving spaces each having an inlet and an outlet, wherein the raw material receiving spaces have a tapered shape in which the inlet is wider than the outlet and the raw material receiving spaces are adapted to receive the fibrous plant materials, and

a plurality of pushing rods disposed opposite to the inlets of the raw material receiving spaces, the pushing rods being adapted to compress the fibrous plant materials by reciprocating relative to the dies along [the] a longitudinal direction of the inlets and outlets of the raw material receiving spaces.

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 10 [or 11], wherein after the compression step at least 20% [of the total] by weight of the compressed solid feed comprises fibrous plant materials having a length of at least 3 cm and the compressed solid feed has a density of between about 0.4 [to] and 0.6 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.